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Letter from John Muir to [Annie Kennedy] Bidwell & General [John Bidwell], 1890 Apr 19.

John Muir

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Martinez, April 19th 1890.

Dear Mrs Bidwell & General,

I have been thinking of you every day since dear Parry died. It seems as if all the good flower people, at once great & good, have died now that Parry has gone; Torrey, Gray, Kellogg, & Parry. Plenty more botanists left but none we love like these. Men more amiable apart from their intellectual power I never knew - so perfectly clean & pure they were, - pure as lilies yet tough & unyielding in mental fibre as live-oaks. O dear! It makes me feel lonesome though many truly souls remain. Never shall I forget the charming evenings I spent with Torrey in Yosemite & with Gray after the days rambles were over & they told the stories of their lives Torrey fondly telling all about Gray, Gray about Torrey, all in one summer, and then

two they told me about Pary for the first time. And then how fine & how fruitful that trip to Shastu with Jan! Happy days not to come again. Then more than a week with Pary around Lake Tahoe in a boat, had him all to myself - precious memories. It seems easy to die when such souls go before. & Blessed it is to feel that they have indeed gone before to meet us in turn when our own day is done. The Scotch have a proverb "The evening brings a' hame". & so however separated far or near the evening of life brings all together at the last.

Lovely souls embalmed in a thousand flowers, embalmed in the hearts of their friends, never for a moment does death seem to have had anything to do with them. They seem near, & are near, & as if in bodily sight I wave my hand to them in loving recognition.

Ever Yrs John Munn